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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,336	06/26/2003	Namon A. Nassef	230339	2851

7590 12/18/2003

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EXAMINER

ROWAN, KURT C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3643

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/603,336

Applicant(s)

NASSEF, NAMON A.

Examiner

Kurt Rowan

Art Unit

3643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6/26/2003. 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In reference to claims 1 and 9, the first cutting blade is recited to be attached to the housing. The first cutting blade is attached to the shaft as disclosed in lines 2-3 on page 8 of the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spinelli in view of Wentzell et al.

The patent to Spinelli shows a chummer having a housing 11 having an inlet port 33b and an outlet port 33b in disc 33 and an opening for receiving bait. Spinelli shows a motor 40 attached to the housing and a shaft 31 extending through the housing.

Spinelli shows a first cutting blade 35 attached to the housing by way of shaft 31 and an impeller blade 36 attached to the shaft 31 in Fig. 6a. Spinelli shows an opening 12

for receiving bait. Spinelli shows a top cap 42, 43, a bottom cap 60. Spinelli discloses the chummer mounted on a boat above the surface of the water in column 2, lines 20-22. The patent to Wentzell shows a chummer having a housing 14 with inlet and outlet ports 16, 16; a shaft 30 mounted axially in the housing with a first cutting blade assembly 36. Wentzell shows a top cap 26 and a bottom cap 28. Wentzell shows the chummer placed in water in Fig. 2 with the inlet and outlet ports beneath the water line. In reference to claims 1 and 9, it would have been obvious to provide Spinelli with inlet and outlet ports beneath the water line as shown by Wentzell for the purpose of mixing the bait with water to output a more homogenous mix. In reference to claims 2 and 10, Spinelli shows an electric motor 40. In reference to claims 3 and 11, Spinelli does not disclose that the motor is reversible, but it would have been obvious to employ a reversible motor to prevent jamming of the bait in the housing. The examiner takes Official Notice that reversible motors are old and well known. In reference to claims 7-8, 15-16, Spinelli shows a mounting bracket 20 attached to the housing. It would have been obvious to pivotally attach the mounting bracket to the housing for the purpose of shifting the housing out of the way when not in use. The examiner takes Official Notice that pivotal mounting brackets are old and well known in the art. In reference to claims 17-18, Wentzell shows the end of the shaft 30 received in a bearing assembly (not labeled but the bearing assembly is taken as the top part of bottom plug 28 as shown in Fig. 1) attached to the removable bottom cap 28 as disclosed in column 2, lines 33-37.

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Claims 4-6, 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spinelli in view of Wentzell as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Stanish et al. '921.

The patents to Spinelli, Wentzell and Stanish show chumming devices. Spinelli and Wentzell have been discussed above. In reference to claim 4, Stanish shows a chumming device with a housing 6, a shaft 1 mounted in the housing noting Figs. 1-2 and having a plurality of blades 8 mounted on the shaft as shown in Fig. 3. In reference to claims 4 and 12, it would have been obvious to provide the chumming device of Spinelli as modified by Wentzell with a plurality of blades as shown by Stanish to cut the bait more effectively. In reference to claims 5, 6 and 13, 14; Stanish shows cutters 8 and spacers 11 mounted on the shaft, but does not disclose changing the distance between the blades. However, it would have been obvious to employ a changeable distance between blades for the purpose of cutting-up different sized fish and for producing chum of different sizes for different fishing conditions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 19 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wentzell et al.

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The patent to Wentzell shows a chumming device having a housing 14 partially submerged in water shown in Fig. 2 wherein the bait passes through the housing and is chopped up and water is drawn into the housing and mixed with the chopped bait. The chopped bait is expelled from the housing. Wentzell shows a mounting bracket 40, 56 as disclosed in column 6, lines 43-55.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. Claims 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wentzell et al. as applied to claim 19 above, and further in view of Spinelli.

The patents to Wentzell and Spinelli show chumming devices as discussed above. In reference to claims 20-24, see the rejections of claims 1-3, above, now Wentzell in view of Spinelli.

8. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wentzell et al.

The patent to Wentzell shows a chumming device as discussed above. Wentzell discloses a mounting bracket 40, 56, but does not disclose a pivotal connection between the mounting bracket and the housing. However, it would have been obvious to employ a pivotal mounting bracket so that the housing could be moved when not in use. Also, see the rejections of claims 7-8, 15-16, above.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents and patent publications to Stevens, Bresolin, Gicesku, Korkuch, Stanish '242, and Nolt show the state of the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kurt Rowan whose telephone number is 703 308-2321. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on 703 308-2574. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-1113.


Kurt Rowan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3643

KR